

STATINTL

Swede Gets Life For Selling Secrets

By Frederic Fleisher

A Special Correspondent

Swedish Air Force Col. Stig Wennerstrom was sentenced yesterday to life imprisonment for selling defense secrets to the Soviet Union.

The Stockholm Magistrate's Court also stripped Wennerstrom of his reserve colonel status and ordered him to pay the Swedish government nearly \$100,000, which he received from Moscow during his 15 years as a Soviet spy.

The sentencing came just 10 days before Soviet Premier Khrushchev is due in Stockholm for a good will tour of Scandinavia. Officials feared the case might produce anti-Russian feelings. Premier Tage Erlander declined to comment on how the case might affect Mr. Khrushchev's visit.

Wennerstrom confessed to turning over U. S. Strategic Air Command and NATO secrets to the Soviets, but the court tried him only for his crimes against Sweden. He

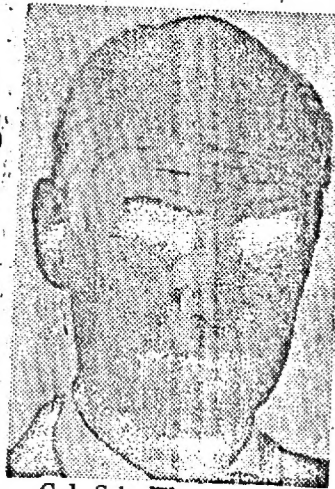
also confessed to spying for Nazi Germany during World War II, then for the U. S. before joining up with the Soviets.

For 15 years until his arrest last June, he held sensitive posts in Moscow, Washington and Stockholm. He was a Swedish air attache in Washington from 1952 to 1957.

Under Swedish law, Wennerstrom theoretically could be paroled after 10 years. Swedish legal and penal officials were reluctant to comment on the sentence yesterday, but many implied that they doubt he will ever be a free man again.

When he applies for a pardon in about nine years, it seems unlikely that his request will be granted. Premier Erlander has called the case "the worst ever to hit Sweden." A life sentence is the most severe penalty Sweden imposes in peacetime.

Defense attorney Carl Erik



Col. Stig Wennerstrom

Lindahl, who informed Wennerstrom of the verdict, said, he doubted that there would be an appeal. He said neither he nor Wennerstrom had believed the court would decide on less than a life sentence.

Wennerstrom will continue to be confined in a specially built steel and cement cell in Langholmen Prison. He will be allowed to write and receive letters, but they will be censored. He will work a 45-hour week, probably doing some type of office work in his cell.